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## USDA Observes National Consumer's Week

Now in its seventh year, National Consumer's Week (the last week in April) is again being observed at USDA. The theme this year is "Consumers Buy Service." In keeping with this theme, Ann Chadwick, director of the Office of the Consumer Advisor, has planned a technology fair entitled "Serving Consumers With Technology."

All day for 3 days—April 26, 27, and 28—on the Administration Building Patio, USDA agencies will exhibit technologies they have developed for their consumer-oriented services. Among them will be:

- o A meat and poultry hotline
- o A diet analysis program
- o The Electronic Dissemination of Information system
- o An "expert" query system
- o An interactive learning/teaching video

Demonstrations each day from 11:30 to 1:30 will allow fair-goers to experience the technologies. Consumer pamphlets, booklets, and brochures will also be available on all sorts of topics.

There is no substitute for good, old-fashioned service. And, since so many USDA agencies have service in their names, the celebration of National Consumer's Week is a "natural" this year for USDA. Come experience how USDA serves consumers with its technology.

Everyone is invited to the fair.

—Story by Nancy Gaston  
Nutrition and Technical  
Services Division

## Secretary Lyng Honored by ASFSA



Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng received a plaque from Jane Wynn, president of the American School Food Service Association (ASFSA) in recognition of his efforts in the child nutrition programs.

Lyng accepted the plaque recently at ASFSA's 16th annual legislative conference. He commended school food service staffs across the country, saying, "I think the whole nation should be very proud of the kind of school lunch program that is now provided."

—Story by Linda Boling  
Photo by Larry Rana  
Public Information Staff



## Mid-Atlantic Summer Program Coordinators Meet

The Summer Food Service Program operates only about 4 months each year, but there's lots for its administrators to do prior to feeding free meals and snacks to the 1.5 million children who participate daily.

Hundreds of applications from organizations and food service management companies that want to run the program at various sites have to be reviewed. The selected sponsors and vendors have to be trained, and a multitude of sites need to be inspected for suitability.

Federal, state, and local coordinators of the program in the Mid-Atlantic Region met for 2 days recently. They discussed how to motivate sponsors to continue to operate good programs, and looked at ways to reach the kids who are not participating in the program. Last summer, sites in the region served an average of 265,000 participants daily.

As an enticement to visit Richmond's program sites, this year the local summer program staff will hand out to children anti-drug buttons, reading: "Do Homework, Not Drugs"; "I Say No to Drugs"; and "Don't Drink and Drive." This idea generated a lot of interest from the audience.

MARO's Bernie Brachfeld and Joe Weingart gave an update on the USDA commodities situation. They told the coordinators how they can use bonus commodities to manage food costs, and

Linda L. Boling  
Editor, Public Information Staff

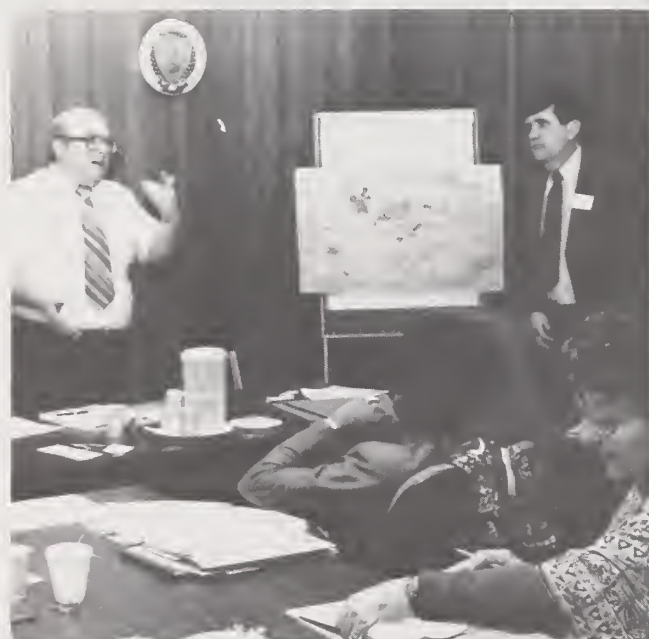
The Friday Letter is published every 2 weeks by the Public Information Staff of the Food and Nutrition Service. To update mailing address, or to alter number of copies received, please mail changes to the FNS Public Information Staff, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 823, Alexandria, VA 22302, telephone no. 756-3284.

they gave out recipes that include these products.

Lou Pastura of the Special Nutrition Programs Division gave a presentation on developing new regulations. He stressed the importance of making comments on proposed regulations and explained how these comments are evaluated.

MARO's Sharon Gellman opened a discussion on the content of upcoming management evaluations, and Michele Bouchard and Grant Hicks discussed new regulations, monitoring, and organization-wide audits.

During a 2-hour open forum, which has become the most popular session of the yearly meeting, the coordinators raised questions about vendor registration, training local health department staff, writing standards for monitors to review sites, conducting plant inspections, and criteria to determine whether a sponsor should be reviewed prior to the start of the program.



John Nagy, MARO summer program unit leader (left) and Jim Massey of the Pennsylvania Department of Education discuss training summer food program sponsors.

-Story and Photos by Marian Wig  
MARO Public Affairs Staff

## A Success Story Continues in Pennsylvania

Dave McDevitt, OIC of the Pittsburgh Field Office, has been visiting local agencies in western Pennsylvania in an effort to help managers develop new ways to improve the Food Stamp Program. He is making county officials aware of the kinds of initiatives noted in FNS publications such as the Catalog of Program Improvement Activities.

As a direct result of one of McDevitt's visits, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, recently implemented a payment accuracy improvement process known as VITA (Verification of Information Taken at Application). VITA is a special front-end detection unit pioneered in neighboring Erie County in 1986, comprised of experienced workers who specialize in verifying information in high-risk cases.

VITA has proven to have a significant impact on fraud and error reduction in Erie County. For the period September 1986 through October 1987, 1,269 cases were referred to the unit. Fifty-one percent of those resulted in non-certification with a potential dollar savings of \$190,357. During its first week of operation, the Mercer County VITA unit reviewed six cases. Four of those were affected by the VITA investigation.

-Story by MARO Public  
Affairs Staff

## Public Service Scholarships Awarded

The Public Employees Roundtable, a non-profit civic organization, has established scholarships for college students pursuing either an undergraduate or graduate degree and a career in government.

The undergraduate applicant must have completed the equivalent of 1 year of college and maintained a cumulative scholastic average of 3.0 (B) or better. The candidate must write an essay entitled "Why I Have Chosen to Pursue a Government Career," and include a written recommendation by an employer from public employment or community service. Preference will be given to candidates who have had some work experience in local, state, or federal government/community service.

For an application, call Venita Smith, Services Branch, Personnel Division, on 756-3374. Applications must be submitted to Personnel Division, Room 805, by May 10, 1988.

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## NAC Scheduled to Meet

The National Advisory Council (NAC) on Child Nutrition has scheduled a meeting for June 7-9, 1988 at the Rosslyn Westpark Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. This year's meeting will focus on the development of the council's biennial report to the President and the Congress.

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## Applauding All Secretaries

FNS salutes the people who keep our agency afloat.

National Secretaries Day is April 27 with week-long celebrations commencing April 25.

Remember the week, remember the day,  
remember your secretary in your special way.

-Article by Mary Kennedy  
Public Information Staff





## Cajun Festival Adds Spice to School Lunch

Guardian Angels School in Denver has been getting a lot of mileage out of a small Nutrition Education and Training grant. It was one of eight Colorado private schools and residential child care facilities who were awarded competitive NET mini-grants for their proposals.

Principal Mary Gold and veteran Food Service Director Maria Olivetti planned a four-part series of "events" featuring the food and background of other cultural or ethnic populations. They chose New England, Southwestern, Cajun, and Vietnamese cuisine and planned study units around typical foods of those areas and how they related to the people and their lifestyle.

Teachers at the 150-student kindergarten-through-eighth-grade school worked with students on special projects and related studies. Students in two or three grades worked as a team on a particular unit, decorating the lunchroom and helping with some food preparation. Typical ethnic and regional music and programs highlighted menus chosen.

For the Cajun Mardi Gras Festival planned by seventh and eighth graders, the menu included jambalaya, corn on the cob, apple slices, and king bread. King bread is similar to cinnamon-roll dough--and is formed into large round braids, decorated with colorful sugars and sliced in narrow wedges. Tiny plastic "babies" were hidden in some wedges. Students who found a "baby" were given colorful paper crowns to wear and became "kings" or "queens" for the rest of the day.

The lunch-hour program included taped Cajun folk music, and a talk about the history of the Acadian (Cajun) people--with settlement locations pointed out on a large wall map. School lunch was an object lesson involving the senses--from the spicy aroma and noisy party atmosphere to the flavor that brought many children back for seconds.



Children enjoy their first taste of Cajun cookin' at Guardian Angels School in Denver.



A lucky winner has just found a hidden "baby" in his King bread. He'll be a king for the day.



Another lucky student will be queen for the day as Food Service Director Maria Olivetti at Guardian Angels School looks on.

-Story and Photos by Joanne Widner  
MPRO Public Affairs Staff



## Regional Office Spotlight

### Hector Named SNP Director

Ann Hector has been appointed Mountain Plains Regional Special Nutrition Programs director, filling the spot left vacant when Forrest Moore was appointed deputy regional administrator. Prior to that she was in charge of the one-tier food stamp quality control project in Missouri.

A native of Providence, Rhode Island, Hector grew up in Spartanburg, South Carolina, where she graduated from Converse College. Upon graduation, she moved to Washington, DC, to pursue a government career. She began that career with the Consumer and Marketing Service (now FNS) and got in on the ground floor of the Food Stamp Program. During a detail to the San Francisco office, she decided to stay at the regional level. When the Mountain Plains office was formed in 1977, Hector moved to the Family Nutrition Programs Office in Denver.



-Story by Joanne Widner  
Photo by Craig Forman  
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

### Fraud Resource Manual Geared to Training Conference

The Mountain Plains food stamp staff is working with federal, state, and county representatives to develop a resource manual for fraud detection and prevention that will be used throughout Colorado.

Target date for preparation of the draft manual coincides with the June 15-17 Colorado Welfare Fraud Council training conference in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Working from Colorado's current resource manual, "Working Against Fraud," committee members will excerpt components from other state handbooks. The committee includes Rafael Zambrano of MPRO's Food Stamp Program; Health and Human Services' Inspector General Kayleen Drissell; Guy Till, an attorney for the State of Colorado; Vel Behrendt of Boulder County's Social Services staff; Pamela Brown of Adams County Social Services; and Ron Rice of the Colorado Social Services staff.

Since not every county in Colorado currently has a fraud investigator, the manual is being designed to enable such counties' eligibility workers to refer to sections they can use. Fraud investigators or even prosecutors in other counties can turn to other sections that will fill their needs. In addition, the manual will give Colorado's program a greater degree of consistency across all its offices than was possible before.

The committee developed its working outline in early February. When the draft is completed, workshops at the annual training conference will cover specific sections of the manual. Each conference registrant will receive a copy of the manual, and participants will be encouraged to contribute to the final product.

-Story by Joanne Widner  
MPRO Public Affairs Staff



## Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the vacant positions listed below. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Application for Federal Employment, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you are interested in a headquarters position, apply to the Operations Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexandria, Virginia

22302. Apply directly to headquarters office for all GM-14 and 15 positions. For regional positions, apply directly to the regional office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or copies can be obtained from the appropriate regional or headquarters personnel office.

### Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Clerk Stay in Schooler	(A)	GW-303	1/2	Open	88-SIS	FNS
o Clerk Typist	(A)	GS-322	2/3/4	Open until Filled	NONE	FNS
o Secretary Typing	(A)	GS-318	4/5/6	Open Continuous	88-999	FNS
o Systems Accountant	(G)	GS-510	12/13	04/18/88	88-23	DAFM
o Computer Program Analyst	(FNS-W)	GS-334	12/13	04/18/88	88-24	IRMD
o Management Analyst	(FNS-W)	GS-343	12/13	04/18/88	88-24A	IRMD
o Food Program Spec	(FNS-W)	GS-120	7	04/25/88	88-25	CND
o Food Program Spec	(G)	GS-120	7	04/25/88	88-26	CND
o Contract Specialist	(FNS-W)	GS-1102	11	04/18/88	88-27	DAM

#### Office Location

FNS - Food and Nutrition Service  
 IRMD - Information Resource Management Division  
 CND - Child Nutrition Division  
 DAM - Deputy Administrator for Management  
 DAFM - Deputy Administrator for Financial Management

#### Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources  
 (FNS-W) - FNS Headquarters Wide  
 (G) - Governmentwide